



Michael J. Hodges
Investigator-In-Charge / Aviation Accident Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety, Central Regional Office

Date: July 19, 2023

Subject: CEN22LA321

Contact: Melvin DeVore
Aviation Safety Inspector - Airworthiness
Federal Aviation Administration Will Rogers Flight Standards District
Office

The NTSB IIC spoke with Melvin DeVore over the telephone.

The pilot and student pilot departed from Bonham, Texas, to the Red River, and were planning on returning to the Bonham, Texas. The flight was a 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight. The pilot and student pilot both sustained fatal injuries. The airplane sustained substantial damage.

The purpose of the local area flight was to conduct low-level flight operations over and on the Red River.

The accident site is an island on the Red River, a large river between Oklahoma and Texas. The island is right next to a large sand bar. The accident site is in a remote area. Melvin travelled via an airboat with law enforcement personnel on July 18, 2022, to the accident site. Melvin photographed and documented the accident site with law enforcement personnel.

The experimental airplane came to rest all in one location. All the major structural pieces were at the accident site. The engine and propeller appear to be buried under the wreckage and the sand. The engine and the propeller could not be examined at the accident site.

The main landing gear appeared to sustain impact damage while the tailwheel was found intact.

It was not possible to verify flight control continuity with the airframe due to the way it came to rest at the accident site. The airplane came to rest nose down with the tail almost straight up. The cockpit was severely compressed from the accident sequence. The cockpit was saturated with biohazard from the two occupants.

The fuselage and both wings sustained impact damage. It was undetermined if both wing fuel tanks were breached or not. There was no smell of fuel or signs of a fuel leak on the airframe or on the ground. Both fuel tanks cap were found installed.

There was no postimpact fire. There were no signs of the airplane impacting an obstacle in the area.

Melvin did not retain any items from the wreckage. There were no signs of any recording devices, the pilot logbooks, the airplane maintenance records, or fuel records/receipts at the accident site. There did not appear to be any large bags or packs at the accident site.

Two Bose A20 aviation headsets were found in the wreckage.

There were no known witnesses to the accident sequence.

Nothing Follows



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Contact: Angie Richardson
Mother of the Accident Pilot (Ryan Richardson)

The NTSB IIC spoke with Angie Richardson over the telephone.

The pilot (Ryan Richardson) and student pilot (Hadley Workman) departed at an unknown time on July 17, 2022, from the Jones Field Airport (F00), in Bonham, Texas, to the Red River, and were planning on returning to F00. The flight was a 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight, with two friends flying together. The accident time is unknown. The expected return time to F00 was unknown.

The purpose of the local area flight was to conduct low-level flight operations over and on the Red River.

Ryan was self-employed and he built airboats. Ryan has flown in his airplane multiple times in the Red River area, and he was familiar with the area. Ryan and the student pilot, Hadley Workman, were friends. Ryan lived with his parents.

On the day of the accident, July 17, 2022, Ryan was off from work and was flying that day. For the three days prior to the date of the accident, it was unknown if Ryan was working or not, or if he was flying or not.

Ryan used medication for allergies. He did not use any other drugs, legal or illegal. He did not use alcohol. He would rarely use chewing tobacco. Ryan would drink lots of water, no soda, and an occasional coffee. Ryan had no major stress events in his life. Ryan had no issues with sleep or fatigue. Ryan lived a very active lifestyle. Ryan never reported any concerns with the airplane or with flying.

Ryan was planning on starting up training with a flight school in the future for some additional training.

Angie does not know where Ryan's pilot logbook, the airplane's maintenance records, or the airplane fuel records/receipts are located at. She will search for them and if she finds them, she will let the NTSB know.

Angie does not know of any witnesses to the accident.

Nothing Follows



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Date: July 20, 2023

Subject: CEN22LA321

Contact: Amanda Workman
Mother of the Accident Student Pilot (Hadley Workman)

The NTSB IIC spoke with Amanda Workman over the telephone.

The pilot (Ryan Richardson) and student pilot (Hadley Workman) departed about 1928 local time on July 17, 2022, from the Jones Field Airport (F00), in Bonham, Texas, to the Red River, and were planning on returning to F00. Hadley texted Amanda at 1928, that the airplane was airborne. The flight was a 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight, with two friends flying together. The expected return time to F00 was unknown.

The purpose of the local area flight was to conduct low-level flight operations over and on the Red River.

Ryan was in the left seat and Hadley was in the right seat of the airplane.

There were no further communications from Hadley or Ryan after about 1930.

The accident likely happened between 1930 and 2030, as they wouldn't be out flying when it would be dark out.

The wreckage was found about 0200 on July 18, 2022, by family members of the occupants.

Hadley and the accident pilot, Ryan, were friends. Hadley worked on a farm. Hadley was a student pilot and he wanted to become a commercial pilot.

Amanda does not know where Hadley's pilot logbook is located at. She will search and if she finds it, she will let the NTSB know.

Amanda does not know of any witnesses to the accident.

Nothing Follows



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Contact: Kevin Atkins
Friend of the Accident Pilot (Ryan Richardson)

The NTSB IIC spoke with Kevin Atkins over the telephone.

Kevin is friends with Ryan. Kevin is also a pilot. The pilot's father contacted Kevin about 0000 on July 18, 2022. The father was worried that he didn't hear anything from Ryan in several hours.

Kevin rented an airplane (a Cessna 172M, N1954V) and he flew up and down the Red River, but he did not locate the wreckage of the missing airplane.

Kevin's understanding of the purpose of the local area flight was to conduct low-level flight operations over and on the Red River.

Kevin does not know of any witnesses to the accident.

Kevin does not know where Ryan's pilot logbook, the airplane's maintenance records, or the airplane fuel records/receipts are located at. He will search for them and if he finds them, he will let the NTSB know.

Nothing Follows